

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the application.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application and formal notification of the allowability of the pending claims are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.

Election of Group I Without Traverse

The Office Action of February 3 restricts the claims into two groups:

Group I, i.e. Claims 1 -13 and 17-20, directed to food casings

and

Group II, i.e. Claims 14-16, directed to methods for producing food casings.

Applicants hereby elect without traverse the claims of Group I, i.e. Claims 1 through 13 and 17 through 20, directed to the inventive food casings.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a significant and important contribution to the art, which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the art. It is believed that all of pending Claims 1 through 13 and 17 through 20 are in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite examination of this application.

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It is not believed that fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, the fees are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office PAIR Webpage via the electronic filing system in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.6(a)(4) on February 6, 2009.

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